

## Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-05 ISO-00 USIA-15 SSO-00 /025 W

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O 261250Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5659

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EO 11652N/A

TAGS: SCUL SG US

SUBJ: JACKSON FIVE TO VISIT DAKAR

1. JOHNNY SECKA HAS PROMOTED JACKSON FIVE VISIT TO DAKAR AS HIS MAJOR ACTIVITY SINCE HE RECENTLY RETURNED TO DAKAR FROM EXTENDED STAY IN US. HE HAS ENLISTED SUPPORT OF SENEGALESE TOURISM OFFICIALS WHO HAVE SIGNED CONTRACT WITH HIM AND PULBIC RELATIONS FIRM TO PRODUCE SHOWS AT LOCAL STADIUM AND NATIONAL THEATER ON FEBRUARY 1, 2 AND 3. WITH ASSISTANCE OF DELEGATE GENERAL FOR TOURISM, SECKA HAS PERSUADED LOCAL PAN AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE TO OBTAIN FREE TICKETS FROM PAN AM NEW YORK FOR TWENTY FIVE PEOPLE IN JACKSON FIVE PARTY. LOCAL ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN HAS BEGUN AND TICKETS ARE ON SALE.

2. BASED ON OUR OWN EXPERIENCE WITH SECKA, EMBASSY FINDS RESERVATIONS EXPRESSED BY COULBARY AND FALL WELL FOUNDED. SECKA HAS TRIED ON AT LEAST TWO OCCASIONS TO ADVANCE PROJECT BY IMPLYING EMBASSY ENDORSEMENT AND SUPPORT. IN FACT EMBASSY WAS NOT CONSULTED ABOUT PLANS AND HAS THUS FAR MAINTAINED DISTANCE FROM THE PROJECT BECAUSE OF OUR OWN RESERVATIONS ABOUT SECKA BASED PARTLY ON OUR UNSATISFACTORY IMPRESSION OF HIM AND PARTLY ON RUMORS OF A CLOUDED REPUTATION. AMONG OTHER THINGS, SECKA REPORTEDLY HAS APPROPRIATED NAME OF LEGITIMATE GAMBIAIAN ARTIST, THE REAL JOHNNY SECKA, AND TRADED ON IT DURING HIS RECENT US STAY TO OBTAIN ACCESS TO IMPORTANT FIGURES SUCH AS JACKSON FIVE.

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3. IN OUR OWN EFFORTS TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT SECKA WE WERE INFORMED BY DIRECTOR OF TOURISM FAYE THAT HE IS SUPPORTED BY TOURISM OFFICE BECAUSE OF REPUTATION HE ENJOYS WITHING THE UPS AS DYNAMIC YOUTHFUL SUPPORTER OF PARTY AND PRESIDENT. OUR BEST ESTIMATE IS THAT HE PROBABLY HAS GAINED CONFIDENCE OF SOME WELL PLACED PARTY OFFICIALS, AND POSSIBLY EVEN PRESIDENT SENGHOR, WHO ARE NOT YET AWARE OF HIS POTENTIAL FOR FREEWHEELING AND UNSCRUPULOUS EXPLOITATION OF THEIR SUPPORT.

4. EMBASSY HAS NO INFORMATION ABOUT ONWARD TRAVEL OF JACKSON FIVE.

5. IF IN REQUESTING INSTRUCTION AMBASSADOR COULBARY COMMUNICATED TO GOS THE BASIS FOR HIS LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN SECKA IT MIGHT PROVE VERY USEFUL, SINCE TOURISM OFFICIALS HERE SEEM UNAWARE OF IT. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE ANY FURTHER INFORMATION ON PLANS FOR THE VISIT AND ON ACTIVITIES OF SECKA, WHO IS NOW IN U. S. OUR CONCERN IS THAT POTENTIALLY VALUABLE CULTURAL EVENT MIGHT FOUNDER BECAUSE OF HIS MISHANDLING. ON OTHER HAND, FEEL THERE ARE LIMITS HOW FAR WE CAN GO IN SEEMING ATTEMPT DISCOURAGE ESSENTIALLY COMMERCIAL VENTURE BY WHICH GOS APPARENTLY SETS CONSIDERABLE STORE. AGGREY

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